

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

PA-04 RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 NSC-10 DRC-01 /089 W

----- 023172

P 040942Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9584

INFO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LONDON PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 2163

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, ZA

SUBJ: ELECTION PREVIEW

REF: LUSAKA A-153, NOVEMBER 9, 1973

1. SUMMARY: ON EVE DEC 5, FIRST NATIONAL ELECTION UNDER SECOND REPUBLIC CONSTITUTION, THERE SOME CONCERN PRESIDENT KAUNDA WILL NOT RECEIVE 90 PERCENT YES VOTE HE SEEKING, THOUGH GENERALLY ASSUMED HE WILL HAVE MORE THAN THE REQUIRED 50 PERCENT. PARLIAMENTARY RACES EXPECTED PRODUCE SOME SURPRISES, INCLUDING POSSIBLE DEFEAT THREE/FOUR MINISTERS OF STATE, AND PERHAPS ONE/TWO CABINET MINISTERS. IN GENERAL, CAMPAIGN PROCEEDING PEACEFULLY, AND EVERY EFFORT BEING MADE KEEP IT THAT WAY; TOTAL ENGAGEMENT OF GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HAS CAUSED NEAR-SUSPENSION IN GOVERNMENT'S DECISION-MAKING. SOME EX-OPPOSITION ADHERENTS QUIFPLY CONCENTRATING ON PARLIAMENTARY CONTESTS AND PROMOTING "NO" OR SPOILED BALLOTS FOR PRESIDENCY. DETENTION ABOUT 100 PEOPLE IN CONNECTION WITH ELECTION CAMPAIGN HAS CREATED CERTAIN AMOUNT ILL WILL. END SUMMARY.

2. EMBASSY FINDS KNOWLEDGEABLE OBSERVERS BELIEVE ABSTENTIONS, "NO" VOTE (FOR WHICH BALLOTS PROVIDE) AND SPOILED BALLOTS WILL CUT SIGNIFICANTLY INTO MASSIVE ENDORSEMENT KAUNDA HOPES WIN DEC 5. SINCE THERE NO OPPOSITION CANDIDATE, THIS IS ONLY
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MEANS FOR EXPRESSION OF DISCONTENT. NO ONE QUESTIONS, HOWEVER,

PRESIDENT WILL READILY SECURE "MAJORITY OF VALID VOTES CAST" AS REQUIRED BY CONSTITUTION. ESTIMATES VARY BUT 60-65 PERCENT GENERALLY CONSIDERED REASONABLE GUESS.

3. THOUGH MOST UNIP LEADERS RUNNING FOR PARLIAMENT NOT IN TROUBLE, A FEW APPEAR IN REAL DANGER OF BEING UPSET: MINISTERS OF STATE KANKASA (FOREIGN AFFAIRS), THORNICROFT (TECHNICAL EDUCATION), MULENGA (POWER & WORKS) AND CABINET MINISTERS CHAKULYA (LABOR) AND CHIKWANDA (HEALTH). CHAKULYA RUNNING POORLY AFTER UNIP CENTRAL COMMITTEE CENSURE FOR RECENT ILL-CONSIDERED REMARKS ON TRIBALISM. CHIKWANDA MEETING STRONG CHALLENGE FROM HIS TWO OPPONENTS; CHARGES OF TRIBALISM ALSO INVOLVED IN THAT CONTEST.

4. SIMON KAPWEPWE, ERSTWHILE LEADER OF NOW OUTLAWED UPP, CLAIMS TO BE WITHDRAWN COMPLETELY FROM POLITICS YET THERE LITTLE DOUBT SOME OF HIS SUPPORTERS BEHIND SPOILED BALLOT CAMPAIGN ON COPPERBELT WHICH COULD BRING KAUNDA'S VOTE NEAR OR BELOW 50 PERCENT IN THAT STRONGHOLD OF BEMBA SPEAKERS.

5. FORMER ANC LEADER NKUMBULA CONSIDERED EASY WINNER OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SEAT. SOME OTHER FORMER ANC MEN SEEM LIKELY WIN SOUTHERN PROVINCE SEATS. WOULD BE SURPRISING IF THERE NOT SOME TRUTH TO ALLEGATIONS CERTAIN UNRECONCILED EX-ANC ADHERENTS ALSO WORKING TO MINIMIZE KAUNDA "YES" VOTE.

6. DETENTION AROUND 100 PEOPLE OVER PAST TEN DAYS, MOSTLY IN WESTERN, SOUTHERN AND COPPERBELT PROVINCES, HAS UNDOUBTEDLY REMOVED SOME ANTI-GOVERNMENT INDIVIDUALS FROM CAMPAIGN TRAIL. THIS ACTION, HOWEVER, HAS NATURALLY AROUSED CONSIDERABLE ILL-WILL WHICH COULD BE DAMAGING. UNLIKE SOME PREVIOUS NATIONAL ELECTIONS, THERE LITTLE IF ANY VIOLENCE SO FAR, BUT HEATED CHARGES OF TRIBALISM HAVE SURFACED IN SEVERAL CONSTITUENCIES. UNIP SECGEN ZULU HAS BEEN OBLIGED WARN CANDIDATES PUBLICLY AGAINST TRIBAL APPEALS. UNIP ATTEMPTING KEEP FIRM HOLD ON EVENTS. PRIME MINISTER, OTHER MINISTERS TOURING COUNTRY ALONG WITH CENTRAL COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO LECTURE TO ELECTORATE, EXHORT LARGE VOTE FOR KAUNDA. SOME UNIP OFFICIALS HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED FOR TAKING SIDES IN PARLIAMENTARY CONTESTS AND THREE DISTRICT GOVERNORS HAVE BEEN REPLACED, AT LEAST TEMPORARILY, CONFIDENTIAL

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FOR INADEQUATELY CONTROLLING CAMPAIGNS IN THEIR AREAS.
WILKOWSKI

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CABINET, ELECTION FORECASTS, PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS, GOVERNMENT MINISTRIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973LUSAKA02163
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: LUSAKA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731247/aaaabiht.tel
Line Count: 109
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: LUSAKA A-153, NOVEMBER 9, 1973
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11-Jan-2002 by cunninfx>; APPROVED <01-Feb-2002 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ELECTION PREVIEW
TAGS: PINS, ZA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005